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**Milan (IT). MARIANI, Davide [IT/IT]; Via C. Miola 47,
I-21047 Saronno Varese (IT).**

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(74) Agent: COLOBERTI, Luigi; Via E. De Amicis, 25,
I-20123 Milan (IT).

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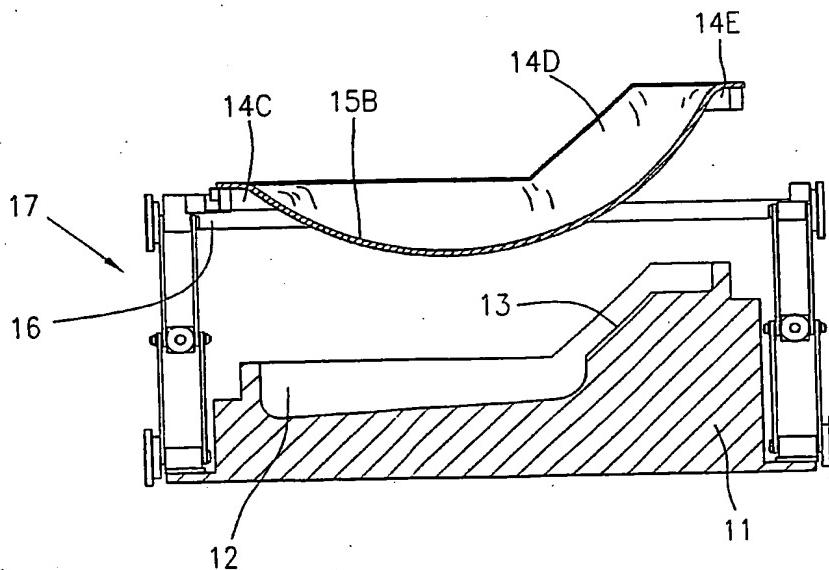
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THERMOFORMING HOLLOW BODIES OF THERMOPLASTIC MATERIAL



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(57) **Abstract:** A method and an apparatus for thermoforming bodies in plastic material by means of a mold (11). A sheet (115) of thermoformable plastic material is heated to a plasticization temperature, supporting it along its peripheral edges. The heated sheet (15) is pre-shaped to create an enrichment of material, performing a sag by relative movements for approaching, raising and/or rotating its peripheral edges, maintaining the plastic sheet (15) in a suspended condition. The pre-shaped sheet (15) is then brought into close contact with the mold (111) and vacuum-formed making it adhere to the shaping surface (12) of the mold (11).

**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)*
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